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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 24, 2003, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2003

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who is the strength of our lives, we call to You each day because You are sovereign. You have brought us safely through dangers, toils, and snares. Lord, rescue us from anything that would keep us from glorifying Your name.

Bless our Senators today that they will not grow weary in their challenging responsibilities. Give them civility and humility that a spirit of unity may characterize their work. Deliver each of us from evil passions so that Your image might be restored in our world. Sustain our military in its daunting tasks. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct an hour of morning business with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader and the second 30 minutes under the control of Senator HUTCHISON or her designee. Following morning business, the Senate will then begin consideration of H.R. 2989, the Transportation, Treasury, and general government appropriations bill. I have had some discussions with the Democratic leadership regarding some of the possible amendments. I will be talking to Senator SHELBY, who will be managing that bill, regarding his expectations. We do anticipate amendments over the course of today's session. Roll-call votes will occur. We are willing to remain in session into the evening, if necessary, to complete the bill today or tonight.

The Transportation appropriations bill is one of the six remaining appropriations bills the Senate must consider before we adjourn this year. It will continue to take a great deal of cooperation on both sides of the aisle to complete action on these bills in a timely fashion. I hope we can work together. I am confident we will be able to work together in this fashion so that we can complete these bills in an expedited way.

On another matter, last week, by a large bipartisan vote, the Environment and Public Works Committee reported the nomination of Mike Leavitt to Administrator of the EPA. Chairman INHOFE came to the floor yesterday to try to reach an agreement to debate the nomination and then proceed to a

vote. There was an objection from my Democratic colleagues. I have read that several Democratic Senators have placed a hold on the nomination, and I therefore want to put the Senate on notice: This nomination is for the Cabinet of the President of the United States. I believe it is irresponsible to allow a vacancy to continue in that position. That position clearly speaks to very important concerns that are before the American people.

Thus, we will move forward on this nomination. If it is necessary, I will file cloture to allow the Senate to work its will on this nominee. If Senators want to vote against the nomination, we will give them that opportunity. They will have that opportunity. Therefore, if we are unable to consider this nomination under some sort of reasonable time limitation, I will move to proceed to its consideration and file the necessary motion.

I thank my colleagues and I hope all Members will reconsider the objections they have put forward.

Each morning, I comment on a range of bills that we will address before we adjourn. We made real headway with the anti-spam legislation yesterday, coming back to appropriations shortly this morning. We still have fair credit reporting on which we are making progress, but we need to get that to the floor. I think we will be able to do that under a short time agreement. We have the issue surrounding the CARE Act which I mentioned when we closed last night. We have the Internet moratorium which we need to address this week or next week. I am confident we will be able to do so.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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